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*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

## Meany and Scoop, Once Again

The real political news out of last week's AFL-CIO executive council meeting in Bal Harbour, Fla., was not that George Meany is yearning for Ted Kennedy or Hubert Humphrey but that his first choice for president once again is Scoop Jackson.

Intimates of AFL-CIO President Meany say his press conference remarks were misinterpreted to indicate that he favors a convention draft of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy or Sen. Hubert Humphrey. To the contrary, according to these insiders, Meany has now forgiven Sen. Henry M. Jackson for supporting the trade act—poison to labor—and now wants him for President (though he will make no endorsement). Thus, Jackson's patient courtship of Meany over many months is crowned with success.

Until recently, Meany had privately complained that Jackson had sold out the labor movement by supporting the trade bill as a way "to get Jewish votes" by attaching to the bill the Jackson amendment for Soviet emigration. "Meany's off that kick now," reports an AFL-CIO insider. While Meany previously complained to friends of a conspiratorial partnership between Jackson and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on the trade bill—incredible on its face—he now contends Jackson was duped by Kissinger.

Besides Jackson's patience in not counterattacking in response to Meany's past taunts, a major reason for the 81-year-old labor leader's change of heart may be the support Jackson commands among Meany's colleagues—such as AFL-CIO International Secretary Joe Keenan and President Eddie Carlough of the sheet metal workers.

Another reason may be Meany's concern that former Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia will be nominated unless stopped by Jackson. Meany's staff last week prepared for him an 11-page memorandum detailing Carter's shortcomings on issues nearest and dearest to Meany's heart: national defense, the Middle East, civil rights, the economy, consumer protection—and, of course, "right to work" legislation.

John B. Connally's invitation to Republican leaders from all 50 states for a private barbecue lunch at his Picoso ranch in Texas four days after the Florida primary election angered and alarmed President Ford's campaign planners.

Should the President run poorly in the early primaries, the Ford operatives believe, Connally would immediately be regarded by some Republican politicians as an alternative to Ronald Reagan. They feel the luncheon Saturday, March 14, only enhances Connally's availability.

What's more, Ford managers view Connally as the leading potential scavenger of Ford supporters—capable of turning narrow primary defeats into a general panic. This concern is heightened because the invitation to the Connally ranch came from State Rep. Ray Hutchison, Texas state Republican chairman who never has concealed his belief that John Connally should be President.

A footnote: Worried that President Ford will run below general expectations in the Massachusetts primary March 2, his strategists wanted the President to cap off his campaigning

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in New Hampshire last week with a visit to Boston on Friday, Feb. 20. No way, said the White House, contending the busing crisis was much too turbulent to risk the insertion of a President.

Old hands at the CIA hoping for the best from a new boy in the intelligence business, George Bush, as their boss were disappointed in his first decision: to publicly renounce the use of news reporters.

Key officials in the CIA did not object to the renunciation in itself but the fact that Bush, in his first act as

director, issued a press release about it.

These officials accurately predicted to Bush this would be interpreted as surrendering to congressional and news media pressures and like conciliatory gestures by departed CIA Director William Colby, would only generate demands for new concessions. Thus, they recommended the CIA return to its old golden silence and sever journalist connections without hoopla. Bush rejected the advice.

A highly secret poll of New York Democrats taken last December showed Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan, as a potentially stronger candidate for the U.S. Senate nomination than left-wingers who have been running non-stop for months.

A scientific survey taken for the New York Democratic State Democratic Committee (and since suppressed because it violates campaign laws) shows the following results: Former New York City consumer official Bess Myerson, 17 per cent; former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, 13 per cent; Rep. Bella Abzug, 12 per cent; Moynihan, 12 per cent.

Moynihan's position is even stronger than that. Miss Myerson will not run, and her support consists largely of moderates who likely would go to Moynihan. When the survey was taken, Moynihan had not been talked about seriously as a Senate candidate—unlike the two candidates on the left, Clark (Senate nominee in 1974) and Mrs. Abzug (campaigning for the Senate since 1974).

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